



August 2021

Dear OLSS Parents:

We hope that you and your families are safe and healthy and enjoying the summer as much as possible. Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we continue to respond to the unexpected events that follow the COVID 19 pandemic.

As we prepare to open our doors to all students and staff please know that our first priority is the safety of our students and employees. Be assured that we have been working diligently and we are excited that we will be able to open our school building again and welcome your children back “home”. OLSS will be open five days a week, for in person instruction for ALL students!

I hope at this point; you have had the opportunity to read through the re-opening plan for the schools in the Archdiocese of NY. If not, I have attached it here for your perusal. All of what you read in the guide will be enacted in our school for the safety and well-being of students and teachers alike. The complete reopening plan was discussed in the Superintendent’s letter and can be viewed on www.catholicschoolsny.org .

In addition to what is put forth there, I wanted to share some particulars that apply to OLSS. The following steps are being taken to ensure that the environment for our students and employees meets or exceeds the standards outlined by the CDC.

Measures taken already include:

- The school has been painted
- The floors have been stripped and waxed
- Extra personnel will once again be hired to clean and disinfect all touch points (doorknobs, light switches etc.) throughout the school during the school day
- The entire school has been disinfected with an electrostatic disinfection process and that will be done on a regular basis once school reopens
- New filters have been installed for all air conditioning units

- Exhaust fans have been installed in all classrooms to help with the flow of outside air into the rooms and to aid ventilation.
- Portable HEPA filters have been ordered for all classrooms as an added layer of ventilation.
- A big THANK YOU to Karl and Ricardo for all the hard work they did this summer!

The front of our school has received a much needed makeover! When you arrive you will be greeted with a new and expanded walkway and new landscaping.

While we are cautiously aware of keeping our OLSS family safe from COVID, we have not lost sight of other safety concerns. With this in mind, all classrooms have had new safety locks / door knobs installed. This will aid the teachers to lock the classrooms very quickly if we are informed of any threat coming from the outside.

As we are all anxious to return on to school please remember the following:

- Face coverings are required in the school building by all students and staff.
- Temperatures will be taken before entering the building. Anyone with a fever of 100 F or more will not be allowed to enter school. All parents are urged to take your child's temperature before you leave the house every morning. All students not feeling well MUST stay home.
- Everyone must bring their own lunch
- Lunch will be eaten in the classrooms for the time being
- Recess and mask breaks will take place outdoors if the weather permits.
- Social distancing guidelines must be followed at all times
- Special subject teachers will go to each classroom, the students will not go to the teacher
- Gym can take place outdoors if the weather permits, following the guidelines set

Reminder: As stated in my July email, all students in grades K – 8 will be wearing summer uniforms for the months of September and October. All uniforms should be purchased from Flynn and O'Hara. Gym uniforms are to only be worn on gym days. If you have been told that there is a delay in the shipping of uniforms, we will be patient as Flynn and O'Hara get their orders out!

You are strongly urged to visit the school website frequently for accurate and up to date information. We will also be posting information regarding immunizations, physicals and forms needed to be returned to the school office.

We are currently evaluating the drop off and dismissal procedures. We will post the times and entrance / exit doors for all grades shortly.

We have been informed by the NYC Office of Pupil Transportation the school bus service will begin September 13, 2021. Therefore, we will NOT have bus service the first week of school.

At this time, we are evaluating whether or not we can reopen our Aftercare program safely, following the guidelines set. Until we make that determination the Aftercare program is suspended.

Please know that our goal is to keep everyone healthy and safe and we will keep you updated as we continue to evaluate and revise any procedures.

Thank you again for your continued support and positivity as we strive to do what is in the best interest of our entire school community while following all the guidelines set forth for schools to reopen.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in a couple of weeks!

Mrs. Jeannine Roland

Principal

Mrs. Patti Gandelman

Assistant Principal